

SHISENRYO KOBAN NO UME NOHA

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To be Presented at Imperial Theater
for March, 1946.

in 3 Acts

SYNOPSIS

This is a story of the later days of the Tokugawa Shogunate regime. Tojuro Fujita, a ronin (jobless samurai) on his way back from a spree at a brothel in Shinjuku, encounters a hot sake vendor named Tomizo at a mount side near Kotsuya Mitsake. Tomizo was once working at Tojuro's house as a servant, and is an ex-convict. As Tojuro is hard pressed for money and is just thinking of committing robbery, their conversation turns to the question of how to get money. Tomizo tells his plan of breaking into a treasure-house of the Shogunate and stealing a good amount of coins, and induces Tojuro to join in the job. Tojuro agrees, and the two guys steal into the treasure-house and get away with 4,000 ryo of money which they conceal beneath the verandah of a leased house of Tojuro in Nihonbashi.

Watching the time ^{when} the people's talk about the missing of the money gets subsided, Tomizo and Tojuro dig out the money and divide it between themselves. But afflicted with their guilty conscience they spend days of uneasiness. Tomizo, foreseeing his lot that some day he will be apprehended by police, goes to Kamagaya, his native town, to bid his last farewell, but at this time police searches are close upon him and he is arrested on his way to his native town. He is then taken back to Yedo. At his native town his father Rokubei, his wife Osayo and his daughter Otomi, hearing his arrest, grieve. To have just a glance at Tomizo and to bid their final good-bye, they wait for Tomizo on his way back to Yedo. Through the goodwill and sympathy of the policemen they are allowed to have a brief interview with Tomizo.

Tomizi is brought back to Yedo and put into a jail at Tennacho.
Hojuro too is arrested and sent into the same prison. After a trial
they are sentenced to death and killed at the execution ground at Asakusa.

11:00 - 1:00



*Zoko
mild 2/26/44*

Shi
"Yon-sen-ryo Koban no Umenoha"

(Four Thousand yen Robbers)

By

Mokuami Kawatake

Delete
pp. 12, 21, 22

Act I

Scene I

Pine avenue on grass mound all length of stage - distant view of moat at the background.

Timbers are propped against pine trees at left end. It is the presenting the outside of Yotsuya Mitsuke.

Denji and Kusuke are smoking.

They are lackeys wearing indigo-blue happi-coat.

Sound of water.

Denji	Our stomach is not filled how much we smoke powder tobacco.
Kusuke	No one would give us money wherever we went tonight.
Denji	At least I wish to eat five bowls of cheapest macaroni, but with our two cents we shall get nothing.
Kusuke	If any night walking macaroni seller come along, I want to eat some, but none seems to come.
Denji	Oh, how I wish I can come across one.
Tomizoh	(Off scene) Oden! (a sort of hotchpatch) Oden! Sweet and salty Oden!

Kusuke and Denji listen.

Denji Hey, there comes an olden seller.

Kusuke It's a ~~saver~~ in hell.

Enter Tomizoh carrying lanterned
oden-stall on his shoulder.

Denji Hey, oden-seller, give us a salty one each.

Kusuke And some hot Sake, too.

Tomizoh All right, gentlemen.

Tomizoh puts down the load,
fanning the portable furnace,
sees the two.

Tomizo Oh, you are Denji and Kusuke.

Denji You guessed right. I'm drunker Denji and
this is grumbling Kusuke.

Kusuke Say, Tomizoh, although we were comrades once,
we are customers when we pay you money.

Denji Don't call our name only.

Kusuke Add sirs.

Tomizoh You don't look as if you are going to pay me.

Denji To tell you the truth, we are not going to
pay you. We would go to other sellers if
we had money, but we have none tonight.

Kuske We've been really out of luck this evening
and waited for.....

Two men You to come.

Tomizoh I know you were.

He finishes preparing dengaku
serves it to the two men with
cups of sake.

Tomizoh Here it is, sirs.

Denji I'm ashamed to be served so courteously.

Tomizoh Oh, it's only my professional way of speaking.

Two men take up cups and drink.

Denji Oh, thanks, I feel alive again.

Kusuke Tomizoh, you are our saver.

Tomizoh You are two frattery. (Fans portable furnace)
As we meet thus together, I recall by gone
days when we were comrade lackeys in Akagi.
We had such wonderful times then.

Denji Everyday we carried dineers to the castle,
and once you and we lackeys played box.
(a sort of gamble)

Kusuke We were so excited and shouted loud on the grass in the sun that they came to arrest, but we cleverly get away, only you failed to escape.

Tomizoh Yes, I was punished for that and discharged. I could'nt remain unoccupied, entreated my bos, managed to set up a household, and now I'm an honest but poor oden-seller.

Denji and Kusuke finish
eating their dengaku and
lick dishes.

Tomizoh Don't be so stingy. (Offers them wine bottle)
Here, hold out your bowl, I'll let you drink
as much as you want.

Denji Sorry we can't pay you.

Kusuke Then pour me another bowlful.

Tomizoh You need not restrain yourselves, for I'm
generous.

Denji I'm not fawning upon you, but your miso(bean
paste) is very delicious.

Tomizoh Best quality is sold most, so I take trouble
to go to Chikuma beyond Eitai-bridge to buy it.

Denji That accounts for my finding it so delicious.
Chikuma miso is the best of all. Oh, I feel
so happy and merry now. (sings)
Let's have a good time by hitchpatch.

Kusuke Say, Den, shall we go to the brothel in this
spirit?

Tomizoh I advise you not to go there, for you have no
money. You had better go back to your room
and go to bed.

Denji You are like an old man, but we are not of
 the sort.

Kusuke Shall we rather go to the quay bank and see
 the faces of dames than go to our room.

Denji That's very good idea. Say, Tomizoh,
 charge tonights drink to my credit.

Tomizoh Not tonight only, you are always on tick.

Two men put wooden-bowls on
the stall.

Denji Don't despise us so. When we're lucky in our
 gamble, we will pay you plenty, won't we,
 Kusuke?

Kusuke Sure, sure, we'll never get into debt of an
 olden-seller.

Tomizoh Oh, that's very unreliable.

Two men Well, good night, Tomizoh.

Tomizoh I should say "please come again", but I wish
 you'll never come again.

Denji You hate us like.....

Two men a viper.

Exit Denji and Kusuke.

Time bell is rang off scene.

Tomizoh Up town is not so bad for my business, but to meet former pals often and be drunk without payment is the defect of it. Oh, It's ten O'clock by Ichigaya time reporter. This evening is awfully lonely. I think I'll go to relaystation.

He wraps his towel round his face and washes bowls. A 'four-arm' palanquin enters from right, one of the bearers hold lantern written "Shinjuku".

Bearers halt at the middle of the stage, a voice heard from inside of the palanquin.

Tohjiyuroh Young men, let me get out here.

Bearer A Yes, sir, but we've only come to the outside of Yotsuya gate.

Tohjiyuroh That I know, but let me get out anyway.

Bearer B All right, sir.

He raises hanging of palanquin put down leather-sold sandals.

Tohjiyuroh wearing swords get out.

Tohjiyuroh Please let me have a light.

Bearer A Yes, sir.

He hold out lantern, Tohjyuroh
takes a piece of silver coin
out of his purse, wraps it
in paper.

Tohjyuroh Have a drink.

Bearer A Thank you, sir. You thank him too, partner.

Bearer B Thank you very much, sir.

Tohjyuroh All right, you may go now.

Bearer A Then are you going to walk from here?

Bearer B Please be careful of yourself.

Bearers exit right, Tohjuroh
watches backward. Tomizoh
watching his attitude.

Tomizoh Excuse me, but are you not honorable Fujioka?

Tohjyuroh Who is it that calls me by my name?

Tomizoh I am Tomizoh who had once served you as
lackey, sir.

He put off towel from his
face, Tohjyuroh recognizes
him.

Tohjyuroh Oh, you are Tomizoh. What an unexpected
meeting we have!

Tomizoh It's so long since I saw you last, but
 are you quite well, sir?

Tohjiyuroh I didn't expect to find you here tonight.

Tomizoh Judging from your being on your way home
 at this time of the night, I suppose you were
 at Shinjuku?

Tohjiyuroh I was there since yesterday as you guessed
 well. I couldn't go home in broad daylight,
 and you see I'm going home at this late
 hour of the night.

Tomizoh But I can't understand why you have got
 out of the palanquin at such lonely spot.

Tohjiyuroh Oh, I intended to ride all the way to my
 house at first, but there arose some project
 in my mind and I got out here.

Tomizoh What is your project at this most-side with
 no walkers by?

Tohjiyuroh Well, it's no particular project, but I'm
 waiting for some person.

Tomizoh Oh, is that so?

 He gesticulates as if he
 understood.

Tohjiyuroh Say, Tomizoh, have you been at your business
 here for some time?

Tomizoh Well, I've been here for a little more than
 two hours, sir.

Tohjiyuroh Have you not seen a young trader passing by?

Tomizoh I didn't notice any such person, but have you
 some business with the man?

Tohjuroh I have something to receive and I'm waiting for him.

Tomizoh looks round.

Tomizoh I suppose you are going to do a certain job.

Tohjuroh Hush! Tomizoh, have you got scent of my scheme?

Tomizoh I may guessed wrong, but considering your alighting from palanquin at this lonely ditchside and be restless, there must be something shady. You and I were both born and bred in Inuzuka Mura (village), Tsugagun, Shimotsuke. My father was saved by your father when he had nothing to eat. He said always till the end of his life that your father was his life saver. You are his son and I look upon you as my master. I am determined to give you a helping hand in whatever thing you do, without discriminating right or wrong, so please tell me all that's in your mind.

Tohjuroh If your mind is as you say, I will bare my circumstances to you. To tell you the truth, I had been on the spree at Tatsumiya in Shinjuku almost everyday of late, and just for the sake of dignity, run into the competition against the son of the sake (wine) selling shop named Itami-ya in Hongo. Accordingly not a day passed without my going to the licensed quarter and gradually my money were all gone. Thus I was at a loss what to do, when I learned tonight that the son was going home to Hongoh with a hundred yen, and I thought I would waylay him. remove love's rival and get some money of which I'm so much in need. But you are very fast to read my mind, and I'm very much ashamed.

Tomizoh So you intend to lie in wait for him here and get the money? But what are you going to do if he refuses to hand it over to you?

Tohjiyuroh Even if I have to resort to sword, I must get the money.

Tomizoh Oh, it's terribly bad of you to do that, sir. Not only put away love's rival and rob his money but takes even his life, will make you a grave criminal. Please reconsider and stop the scheme, sir.

Tohjiyuroh [A samurai won't draw back his word. It's a man's pride.] My will-power dictates me to carry it out.

Tomizoh Though it may be as you say, please don't murder him. You will be able to find some moderate measure.

Tohjiyuroh Hey, what did you say a minute ago? You were born in the same village with me, and you would give a helping hand to me to repay your father's obligation to my father, without asking the right or wrong of the matter. You said so, didn't you?

Tomizoh As long as I sworn to you to give a helping hand to whatever you do, I'll help you tonight to get the money without killing the young man. So please spare his life.

Tohjiyuroh How can I rely on a coward like you.

Tomizoh I may not render you good services, but I shall be useful to you tonight.

Tohjiyuroh With what will you serve me?

Tomizoh With this, sir.

Tomizoh pulls up right sleeve and bares his arm.

Tomizoh I'll use this.

Tohjiyuroh Why, judging from your word to help me with your arm, you have not quit the life of shame yet?

Tomizoh Just eight years ago when I was in Shimotsuke prefecture, I was arrested by raiding constables of Hasshyu police force for robbery, put in a prison of the Governor's office, tattooed and received one hundred flog. I can't go to a public bath-house because of this tattoo, but when I use this arm I can easily get the hundred money from the raw youth by knocking him down, to be sure.

Tohjiyuroh I heard about your theft by hearsay, so I bared my evil scheme to you, but I'm the more at ease in hearing about that arm. I'll rely on you in everything, and so please help me.

Tomizoh If you think so, let's be partners and do lots of works together.

Tohjiyuroh With your assistance I want to do big work, but please instruct me in a minor task to start with.

Tomizoh Well, if we make an attempt, let it be a big one.

Tohjiyuroh What do you mean a big one?

Tomizoh What I mean is.....this, sir.

Tohjiyuroh This waht?

Tomizoh Treasury of the Shogun.

Tohjiyuroh What.....Treasury of the Shogun?

Tomizoh hushes him, goes to rightward.

Tomizoh Oden! Oden! Sweet and salty!

Tohjiyuroh sinks into meditation,
Tomizoh come back to him.

Tomizoh You spoke too loud.

Tohjiyuroh (Looks frightened)

Tomizoh If we break into the treasury we can get
five or ten thousand yen without being
noticed at all, for the Shogun's property is
above eight million goku. I'll lead you
to a big place to start with.

Tohjiyuroh Fortunately once I served under Imai, the
head guard of the castle, and often passed
by the treasury following my master. But
it's not broad day-light but midnight now.
How do you manage to steal in?

Tomizoh I too know quite well whereabouts of the
treasury, for I carried dinners every day
when I was a lackey there. I'll break through
into the treasury even if there are threehold
guardians to it.

Tohjiyuroh The back of the treasury won't be broken so
easily. How are you going to break it?

Tomizoh Don't worry about that, sir. I had been
trained as a goldsmith in my boyhood and can
make any key by my own hand.

Tohjiyuroh Then you must first steal into the castle
and get the size and form of the keyhole....

Tomizoh Oh, I know that, please leave it all to me

Tohjiyuroh gesticulates as if
he could not rely on him.

Tohjiyuroh You are a man who accomplishes what you've set on your mind, but if by any chance you are detected I too shall be condemned and punished severely.

He looks uneasy, Tomizoh laughs at him.

Tomizoh Oh, don't say such an ill-luck beforehand. Be at ease, for I won't take you with me when I'm arrested before accomplishing the task.

Tohjiyuroh Oh, you're a fine fellow.

Sound of hoop of a barrel break heard inside the stall.

Tohjiyuroh (Frightened) What's that?

Tomizoh Maybe a hoop of barrel has broken.

Tohjiyuroh I'm relieved now, but frightened a minute.

Tomizoh Oh, what a milksop!

Enter Senji of Kisarazu from right, his face is wrapped round by towel and coat tails tucked up, Tokutaroh run in after him barefoot.

Tokutaroh runs against the oden stall, light of lantern

goes out, Senji drops purse
but grapes and get it, goes
to rightward.

Tomizoh and Tohjyuroh crouch
behind and watch, Tomizoh come
forward and seizes Senji.

Tokutaroh seizes on Tohyjuroh.

Tomizoh takes Senji's purse at
last, Tokutaroh comes between
the two and seizes Senji, who
shakes off him and escapes to
left, Tokutaroh peers after him.

Tomizoh feels the purse.

Tomizoh Oh, this is the thing.

Tohjyuroh Eh!?

He goes close to Tomizoh, who
pushes him off.

Tokutaroh exit running after
Senji.

Curtain.

Scene II

Elevated chamber in the middle of stage, adjoining the room to the right is kitchen, wooden roofed gate at left.

Scene present Tohjuroh's residence.

Sound of Mokugyo heard.

Tohjiyuroh enters from left with a towel round his face and barefoot, he is carrying a heavy box of coins wrapped by wrapping cloth on his back.

Tomizoh enters after him, carrying also a coin box wrapped by shirt on his back.

His face is also wrapped round by towel and barefoot.

They open the gate and enter the house.

Tomizoh Fortunately we've met no one on our way here.

Tohjiyuroh We came across to no one, but were frightened several times by the sound of bird's feathers.

They put down coin boxes,
wash their feet.

Tomizoh Are they tapping mokugyos all night through
in the neighbouring temple?

Tohjiyuroh The priest is an old man and he seems to
be bad sleeper. As soon as the clock
strikes ten o'clock he begins that.

Tomizoh I don't like the sound of that, though
you may be accustomed to it in the long run.

Tohjiyuroh But that will keep off robbers.

Tomizoh Then it is our enemy.

Tohjiyuroh Truly it's as you say.

Tomizoh But really we have had a lucky night, haven't
we? Congratulation!

Tohjiyuroh This owes really to you.

Tomizoh I took so much trouble to carry the matter
to this result.

Tohjiyuroh You have an amazing nerve to steal into a
place where no man can approach. It's
really lucky that we've got out safely.

Tomizoh The burden must have been terribly heavy for,
but you forbore it through for avarice.

Tohjiyuroh It was not so heavy at first, but when we
came to Kagura-zaka I was almost about to
throw it away.

Tomizoh By the way, where is Mrs. Fujioka?

Tohjiyuroh Fortunately my wife's mother has fallen
seriously ill, and I sent my wife overnight
with the maid servant to inquire after her.

Tomizoh To be sure this is a solitary house, and at
the back of your house is earthen wall be-
longing to the temple, so we need not be too
cautious, but who is your neighbourer?

Tohjiyuroh Don't worry about my neighbourer, for she is
a deaf old woman.

Tomizoh Now that I'm at esse, I want to ask you a question first. What are you going to do with the money, sir?

Tohjiyuroh Why, I'm going to break the boxes, count the money in them and share than alike between us.

Tomizoh Then we shall be traced soon.

Tohjiyuroh What are you going to do?

Tomizoh I think I will spend none of them coins for a while.

Tohjiyuroh Spend none of them?

Tomizoh This is the secret of it, sir. I intend to conceal them somewhere first, pawn my clothes as usual, feign poverty and walk on the street selling oden like before everyday. And after some months passed and people have forgotten about the robbery, I'll stealthy change gold coins to silver. But there is also a way to spend it, and I will teach you gradually.

Tohjiyuroh Really we can't spend rashly the gold coins we've got hold of tonight. I'll abide by your advice and be careful for a little while. Oh, you're wiser by experiences.

Tomizoh Well, it's nice to be praised for a good deed, but to be clever in robbery is not a thing to boast of, you know.

Tohjiyuroh starts to unseathe his sword to kill Tomizoh, but the latter notices it.

Tomizoh What are you going to do drawing your sword? Oh, I see, you want to kill me, don't you?

Tohjiyuroh You are too bold and I'm beginning to be
afraid of you.

Tomizoh And you want to kill me?

Tohjiyuroh Pray God, for you shall die.

He draws sword and assault
Tomizoh, who avoids the thrust
and takes hold of opponents'
hand.

Tomizoh You can never kill me with your green skill.

Tohjiyuroh assaults again, but
Tomizoh throws a stone at him,
and finally seizes the sword.

Tomizoh My father had been saved by your father long
ago, and so I assisted you tonight to repay
my father's obligation at the risk of my
life, and yet you doubted me and afraid
that our crime should be bared through me,
you want to kill me. Have you no sense of
duty? I'm not going to expose you even if I'm
arrested tomorrow and tortured. If you doubt
me yet, please cut my head, it will jump up
and bite your throat.

Tohjiyuroh gesticulates resig-
nant.

Tohjiuroh I didn't really mean to kill you, but only tried your mind. I'm very glad you have a spirit more firm than a samurai. Pardon me for doubting you, Tomizoh.

He bows humbly to Tomizoh.

Tomizoh You may well want to kill me if I demanded to share alike the stolen money, but I can not understand why you wishes to kill me when I am going to leave all the money here under you care. It's utterly incomprehensible.

Tohjiuroh That's the reason why I bow down to you with my knees on the ground. Please forget my hasty act and be my helpmate in everything hereafter.

Tomizoh If you apologize so I'll not grumble any more.

Tohjiuroh I'm ashamed of myself.

He put his sword in scathe.

Tomizoh Then you won't never attempt such meanness again?

Tohjiuroh I swear to God I'll never do it again.

He does Kincho (Samurai's way of oath in sword girdling days)

Tomizoh

It's very old fashioned to do Kincho
between robbers.

Sound of something drops in
the kitchen.

Tomizoh

What was that sound?

Tohjuroh

May be a rat dropped something.

Tomizoh

Oh, is that so? I was awfully frightened.
(Silence) At any late, let's put this
money under floor.

Tohjyuroh

All right. Bring something to dig.

Tomizoh takes out a plough,
they pull up mat, unfasten
wooden floor by plough, some
sound is heard off scene, they
are startled.

Tomizoh

Oden! Oden! Sweet one and salty one!

Tohjyuroh

Hey, Tomizoh, have you forgotten that we're
inside of my house?

Tomizoh

Oh, you said right.

Laughingly he moves the coin
box.

Curtain.

Act II

Scene I

Snow covered grassy mound.

Snow fallen distant view at the back. Stone image of Jizo at the middle of stage, a resting booth at right.

All presenting the scene of Kumagaya mound.

Four peasants standing.

Peasant A You have a very hard time of it to go your rounds in such a cold weather.

Peasant B They're always afraid lest there should arise anything, call us to the governor's office even when a prisoner is sent to Yedo in a cage.

Peasant C Lest any pals of the convict should waylay on the road and get riotous.

Peasant D We're ordered to patrol attentively in this snow. Oh, we can never be at ease.

Pleasant A. Till the criminal passes by.....

Peasant B. We can not relax.

Peasant C, Let's go to the Kohnosu stand.....

Peasant D. And wait for him to come warning ourselves by fire.

They start to go when Ganpachi
in mackintosh enters from
right.

Ganpachi Excuse me, peasants of Kumagaya, but the pri-
soner's cage has not come yet?

Peasant A Oh, you are Boss Ikiuma.

Peasant B Where are you.....

All four going, sir?

Ganpachi I have something to say to the convict who is
to pass this way today. I've been waiting
a long while in this cold snow wind.

Peasant A Well, then you know.....

Peasant B today's.....

All four Convict?

Ganpachi I met him at the macaroni shop of Bokubei
early this month, but I never knew he was the
treasury breaker.

Peasant A What is the treasury?

Four Tell us please.

Ganpachi He stole into the treasury of Shohgun of
Yedo and robbed four thousand yen. He is a
big thief.

Peasant A Oh, his a big rascal.

Peasant B And why are you.....

Peasant C Waiting for him to pass here.....

Peasant D in this cold weather?

Ganpachi I've long been wanting to get even with him whenever we meet, but he has been arrested for some crime at Kanazawa, in Kaga prefecture, and is now on his way to Yedo. If he is put in jail in Yedo, he will never come out alive, and so I want to meet him on the road and punish him as he deserves well. He is a big convict and there will be several officers guarding him. but I will entreat them a moment's halt and speak to him.

Peasant A If that's the circumstances you might well speak to him.

Peasant B But if you lie in wait for the sake of friendship.....

Peasant C And attempt to let him escape.....

Peasant D We'll all be in trouble.

Ganpachi To appease your anxiety, I'll deposit my sword elsewhere and wait with no weapon on me.

Peasant a looks off scene
to the right.

Peasant A Look! There comes.....

Four Convicts cage! Convict's cage!

Ganpachi All of you go there fast, I'll wait here alone.

Peasant A Then Boss Ganpachi.....

All FourTill we meet again.

They exit left.

Ganpachi

Addding to the snow fall, this long bank
between two stages will surely force them
officials to rest here. I'll go up to them
then, all right.

He hides behind tree at
the left.

Gidayuh singer sings.

"No one seen on the road of Nakasendoh
for heavy snow,
here comes captivated Tomizoh,
in a cage.

The guarding officers hold their sedge-
hat against snow storm with
much effort,

And at last they arrive in front of the
stone image of Jizoh."

Enter the chief guardian
Sanai followed by two
under officers, two navvys
carry in Tomizoh in cage,
four constables follow
them.

Sanai

Hey, coolies, rest a little here for the
snow falls too heavily.

Coolie A Yes, sir, it's our custom to halt here.

Coolie B Even on a fine day we can't walk through
this long distance without resting several
times.

They put down the cage.

Under officer A. They say the Jizoh of Kumagaya bank
spoke something.

Under officer B. We're now before the famous Jizoh,
so it's good to rest here.

Constable A. Though it is yet daytime, there is
no other man than us walking on the
road for the snow.

Constable B. It is a very dismal long way to escort
a convict.

Constable C. Four a traveler to go this bank way
at night.....

Constable D. is a very uncanny thing indeed,
no matter he has some money or not.

Gidayuh:

"Even the tobacco they smoke is damp,
thinking it a good chance,
Ganpachi steps out suddenly and surprises
them."

Appear Ganpachi from be-
hind of some thing.

Sanai Look out, boys.

All All right, sir.

Gidayuh sings:

"They stand on the defensive"

Ganpachi No, I'm not a suspicious person, honorable
 sirs.

Constable Oh, you're Boss Ikiuma.

A.

" B. What brought you here?

Sanai You seem to be a resident of this part of the
 district for these men know you, but on ~~what~~
 business have you come in this snow?

Ganpachi You have good reason to ask that, sir. If
 you ask these men about me, they will surely
 tell you, but tell myself. I'm called
 Ganpachi of Somaya and engaged in preventing
 scoundrels from doing evils. I live in
 this neighbourhood.

Sanai You say you're a resident of this neighbour-
 hood. Hey coolies, is he really as he say?

Collie A Yes, sir, he is called Ikiuma Ganpachi and...

Coolie B A boss of this district.

Sanai And for what business have you stayed here?

Ganpachi I came here to prevent any riotous incident
 to happen on your way to Yedo escorting a
 convict in cage, for such incidents often
 happen in this long distance between two stages.
 I've been keeping watch for your sake, sir.

Sanai You served very well, but it is not so distant
 from Koh-nosu now and I think we have not much
 to worry, so you may retire freely and rest
 yourself.

Ganpachi I have a request to ask of you, sir.

Sanai What is your request?

Ganpachi It is no other than this, sir.
Your convict Tomizoh is my intimate acquaintance and I implore you to allow me and indulgence and let me see him.

Officer A But Tomizoh is a grave convict.

Officer B We can't let anyone meet him arbitrarily.

Constable A There are many instances of breaking the cage by the same measures.

Constable B To go through the way between Kumagaya and Kohnosu in the most important of the Nakasendoh road.

Constable C If you wish to meet him, present an application at the Kohnosu lodging.

Constable D We can allow no one to meet a convict on the way.

Ganpachi To avoid your suspicion that I may resort to violence, I have left no weapon with me as you see. Please search me through if you suspect me yet, and please allow me to meet your convict.

Gidayu:
"Implores he and bow humbly low"

Sanai You seem to be an intimate friend of the convict to wait and implore to be allowed to speak with him in this heavy snow falling. We can not allow such an interview on the way in ordinary case, but as a special favour I will allow you a little while to speak with him. Take off the cover and let him meet the convict.

Constable A All right, sir.

Four We'll let them meet.

Gidayu:

"Constables take off the cover of the cage,
and reveal Tomizoh encaged like
a bird.

Ganpachi looks intently at him"

Men act as the Gidayu sing
above song.

Ganpachi Oh, Tomizoh, what a miserable sight you
present! It's all because of your abominable
crime. Though you had fled about two
hundred miles to Kaga, you have been arrested
finally and is on your way to Yedo, poor
fellow. But I feel quite satisfied with
your present condition. I thought I should
never see you again because you would be
executed on the scaffold in the end, and so
I implored and got permission to speak
with you here.

Tomizoh put his face out
of the cage.

Tomizoh Oh, you're Tomizoh. You too are a gambler
against law, and should have heard and seen
the doings of outlaws, but seems to have
learned nothing from them.

Ganpachi Though I am a gambler a little offending law,
I serve the government in preventing them
outlaws getting riotous. If I had known at
that time that you had committed that sort of

robbery, I should have captivated and got the big reward. It's a sad reflection.

Tomizoh I'm not the man to let you get away with that brag, but I will say nothing for there will be many others fall in trouble if I bare your evil doings. So you had better hold your tongue.

Tomizoh Oh, you shall speak it out.

He starts to attack him.

Sanai Hold back, Tomizoh! We allowed you to meet him because you said you were his intimate friend. Where as you wanted only to satisfy your personal grudge against him, you rascal. We won't allow you any more interview, go away!

Ganpachi Oh, I beg your pardon, sir.
But I bear a grudge against him.

Sanai If you bear a resentment against him, you come to Yedo with us, and present your petition.

Ganpechi But as a special favour, please.....

Sanai We can't favour you, away with you!

Ganpachi But if you please.....

Sanai Oh, I say, away with you.

Gidayuh:

"Not able to protest, reluctantly he
descends toward rice field"

Exit Tomizoh.

Sanai We've delayed for unexpected incident.
 Now let's hurry on.

Coolies All right, sir.

Rokubei (From right off scene) Oh, please wait a
 minute.

All men see rightward.

Office A An old man with a woman.....

Under seems to come here.
Office B

Constable A Let's not bother about them.....

Four men But be started.

Sanai No, maybe they are troubled by snow. Wait
 a little while for them.

Gidayuh:

" And there come father and his daughter
 with a little girl,
 staggering in the snow, and they kneel
 down on the ground."

Enter Rokubei, Osayo and
Otami as Gidayuh sings.

Sanai Oh, you are with a woman and a child, old man.
 You appears to have something to ask us.
 Tell us what you want.

Gidayuh:

"He raises his face at the question"

Rokubei Please excuse us, sir, but I'm Rokubei who
 keep a macaroni shop on the outskirts of the
 town. I've run after you with my daughter
 and her child, for the prisoner in that cage
 is my son-in-law, sir.

Osayo And I am Tomizoh's wife Sayo, sir.
 For a certain reason he and I were separated
 for eight years. I've heard that he had
 stolen into the treasury of Shogun and robbed
 a lot of money, been arrested for that crime,
 and was on the way to be sent to Yedo,
 and we have come after him. I know it is very
 audacious to stop you thus, but please appre-
 ciate my feeling toward my husband and.....

Otami Please allow us to meet my father who is in
 that cage.

Rokubei We implore you.....

Three Most ardently.

Gidayuh:

" They bow down on the snow. Tomizoh hear
 them and put his head out of the cage"

Tomizoh Hey, what is it you are speaking?
It is true that we were once husband and wife,
but as long as we were divorced we are strangers
to each other now. It is unnecessary duty
on your part to implore useless things and
get into trouble.
Better go home now.

Gidayuh:

'Rokubei steps near to him'

Rokubei Oh, Tomizoh, I understand why you say so.
You want not to drag us into trouble along
with you. But how can we sit still in the
house knowing you're passing this way?

Osayo How could you bring yourself to commit such
terrible crime? Not only I but my father and
our child have been crying these several
days resenting and regretting your deed.

Otami Dear father, if you have any excuse to make,
please tell it to them and come home with us,
my mother and grandfather will feel they can
look the world in the face.

Rokubei Oh, he would not trouble the government if
he had any justification. Please, for mercy's
sake.....

Osayo wait a little.....

Three while.

Sanai I say, Tomizoh, you said just a little while
ago that you were divorced from this woman.
Is it really so?

Tomizoh Yes, sir, I had divorced her eight years ago
and now we are strangers to each other.

Sanai Have they any evidence of the divorce?
Speak it out.

Tomizoh I have given her a letter of divorce.
That's a positive evidence, sir.

Sanai That settles all. Hey, Rokubei, according to Tomizoh's words, he had divorced your daughter eight years ago and given her a letter of divorce. Is he right?

Rokubei It's true we have received a letter of divorce, but it means nothing now, sir.

Sanai Hey, what do you say in confusion? There is no reason why a letter of divorce given once means nothing. You are not related to him at all, are you?

Gidayuh: 'At his kind words they can do nothing but weep. Men leek at them'

Under Officer A. The snow seems to be going to fall heavier.

Officer B Now let's.....

Officer C hurry to....

Four Kohnosu.....

Sanai Oh, I want to hurry up, but my stomach aches unbearably. Maybe it is because of the cold. I will cure it by medicine in that straw thatched cottage.

Officer A Then we two will also.....

Officer B use medicine.

Sanai Hey, Rokubei, you stay here andoh, no, drive him away immediately.

Gidayuh: 'He goes into the resting-booth with two under officers, the constables turn to them'

Constable A Our chief Mr. Hamada is the most com-
passionate man indeed. Now, you may....

Fourtalk it over with him.

Gidayuh:

'They forget bystanders' eyes,
and Osayo goes to Tomizoh with Otami'

Osayo Dear Tomizoh, had you really broken into
the treasury of the Shogun of Yedo?
If it is true, there must have been some
urgent necessity.

Otami Even a child like me know that I shall be
arrested and put in a prison if I steal.
Didn't you know that?

Rokubei Though you have kleptomane in your nature,
I never dreamed it was you who stole the
treasury of the Shogun.

Osayo You must have had some accomplices to do
such a thing.

Rokubei You couldn't have done it single handed.

Osayo If you have done it at some other person's
request.....

RokubeiYou had better tell them so and.....

Osayoget mitigation of.....

Rokubei

Osayopenalty.

Gidayuh:

'So they advised him in tears,
but Tomizoh merely put his head out of the
cage saying.....'

Tomizoh Notwithstanding you are strangers to me now, you're very kind and warm-hearted to come to see me. I know very well that thieves can't escape punishment and I'm prepared for it. Stolen money afford us only a short life of extravagance, where as we can never get a peaceful sleep for the crime. It is better to live honest life and sleep in peace than to be always in bad conscience. But to know that now is already too late. I request you, Osayo, to find an honest husband for Otami and set your father at ease. This is our last meeting. If you hear some day in future that the tramp Tomizoh of Shimotsuke has been executed, please pray to God that I may sleep in peace. I say, Otami, you obey to your grandfather and your mother's wishes. If you are asked about your father in the village school, tell them that he had died three years ago. When I am executed, will you please burn incense for me. Well, these are all my requests. Now go home before the snow lay too deep on the road.

Gidayuh/

'Worrying about the road for them,

he withdraw his head in the cage.

The three, bearing the snow, still ching

to the cage from left and right'

Osayo

Then you'd stolen to repay your father's obligation to Mr. Fujioka? It's very unthoughtful of you to commit such a big crime not anticipating our regret. You must have thought that you needn't consider about me because you'd divorced me, but to me you are my husband with a child between us. If you are executed, I have no hope in life, and so when I hear you're dead, I'll go to Yedo with Otami, take a vow of a nun and mourn for you all the rest of my life.

Otami Mother, please take me with you to Yedo, will you?

Rokubei Oh, that's very good indeed. Even before this day, men came to ask me Osayo for their wife or concubine, but she would never listen to them and is resolved to remain faithful to the memory of her husband. When you are executed, I can't bear to face the sneer of neighbours, and so I'll shut up my house and go to Yedo with Osayo and Otami. There I will start in business as a macaroni seller or something, so you had better mourn for him as if you've taken a vow of a nun.

Otami Then are we going to start for Yedo immediately?

Osayo No, we can't go before we've shut up our house.

Rokubei It was to save us from falling into trouble that you forcibly deposited to us a letter of divorce when I refused to take it.

Osayo If that was the case, you should have told us so, and we would have informed to the police before you were arrested, and by our entreaty have got their mercy and mitigate the penalty. But in reality we knew nothing of your crime, and waited for you in vain.

Otami When we heard that you were arrested in Kaga and was on the way to be sent to Yedo, how we regretted, wept and waited till this day.

Tomizoh Though it is a punishment of the heaven, the long journey of the convict is full of troubles with snow and other things.

Rokubei Undying crime lies in the bottom of hell's ravine.

Osayo The snow storm pierces to the bones of poor convict parting in tears.

Rokubei When will the white snow stops to fall?

Tomizoh How we regret.....

Four to part!

Gidayuh:
'Regretting to part, wife and child cling
to the cage, the old man too can not rest-
rain his tears, the stream of river Tone'
will rise by their tears'

The three cling to the
cage and weep.

Gidayuh:
'Time is up and guards appear from behind
trees, and the three reluctantly bow
down on their knees'

Enter Sanai followed by
two under officers.

ConstableA How is you excellency's stomach?

ConstableB Has the medicine cured...

Constable Cdisease.....

Constable Da little.....

Foursir?

Sanai Oh, I'm perfectly cured by the medicine.

Four Oh, we're happy to hear that, sir.

Sanai It began to fall heavily again, let's hurry to the next stage.

Four Very good, sir.

Osayo Now we see each other.....

Threefor the last time.

Sanai I hope you are all well hereafter.

Rokubei
Osayo Thank you so much, sir.

They weep.

Gidayuh:
'The cage is put on the coolies' shoulders,
advances the long road of Kumagaya bank,
parting from beloved beings for long.
It goes through the heavy snow.... to
Kuhnosu'

Snow storm blow hard.

Men covers the cage with oil
paper and carrys it to the left.

Rokubei, Osayo and Otami look
after it with deep sorrow.

Curtain.

Act III

Scene I

Interior of Denmacho prison.

Old man Roemon is in the right corner sitting on a heap of twelve mats. He

Next to him Old men of Kariya, Kamiza and Taira, all on two mats.

Next to them Tomizoh in the role of the second boss.

Next to him the boss, and on fifteen mats sit the great boss on cushion.

Several more prisoners line up next to him and many ordinary convicts in the rear.

Before the curtain rises the call is heard "A present!" Prisoners "Thank you very much"

Curtain rises.

All Salute, salute!

All Half salute!

All adjust pose.

Tomizoh We all thank you for the present,....

Allsir.

Great Boss The head clerk of Hinokiya who is in jail for woods dispute sent a letter and got twenty yen, and so we distributed the present to you all.

Old man of hole: I hope we have such kind of guest every day.

Great Boss Then we'll be all rich.

Reckoning Man: We had received only gamblers and petty thieves this month.

Fourth Man And had not no big one, and so got only poor presents.

Old man of Taira: I wish great ones who will bring lots of fine presents.

Old man of Kariza: I heard that once there was a time in prison when prisoners didn't eat dried food.

Oldman of Corner: That was in the thirteenth year of Tempo, in which I was first sent to this prison. Conspicuous merchants were sent in every day for selling prohibited articles, and brought with them so much present that this prison was never so rich again.

Fourth Man I wish there will be such prohibition again while I'm in....

Third Man and send the same sort of men every day and let us eat eel.....

Boss and make us so rich that no one will eat dried fish.

Great Boss Shall we make the new comer dance the naked dance to change luck?

Second man Let's make the strutting actor who was sent for adultery dance it.

First man He is not so fine but dances well as he is an actor.

Assistant Today we'll paint his face red and white.

Tomizoh ~~Come~~
Come here, Mankuroh.

Reckoning man: Hey, Mankuroh, come here.

Mankuroh Yes, sir. (Steps forward from the rear)
Am I to dance a naked dance?

First man We are going to paint your face first.

Sukekichi Praying that rich prisoners come in
succession only.

Boss We'll reward you afterward.

First man Dance merrily.

Paint Mankuroh's face red
and white.

Mankuroh I beseech the Second man that I may
be allowed to keep my loin cloth on.

Tomizoh We allow you that. Dance immediately.

Mankuroh All right, sir.

Wheat-gluten seller's drum
heard off scene.

Tomizoh Wheat-gluten seller is drumming outside,
you dance to that music.

Mankuroh As you please, sir.

He dances in shirts,
singing as follows.

"Though stark naked I am,
There will come better ones."

He repeats the dance and
song.

Please remit me now, sir.

Great Boss Truly he danced very well.

Old man of Corner: But he is not so handsome to be an
adulterer.

Mankuroh Oh, she loved me for that dance.

Boss Oh, don't brag.

Tomizoh Go back to your place.

Mankuroh Yes, sir.

He retires to his former
position.

Great Boss Call the new comer of last evening and
ask his crime.

Tomizoh We had so many summons today that we
 were late to do that. Homeless Saijiroh of
 Asakusa step forward.

Saijiroh Yes, sir.

 He comes forward.

Tomizoh For what crime is you sent here?

Saijiroh Well, I was gambling with a bootman of
 Takase-ship at the new bank of Hanakawado
 when we were raided. I could find no
 way to escape and jumped into the river.
 But as I can't swim I was about to drown
 to death when I was saved by a detective and
 sent here, sir.

Old man of Teira: Finding no way to escape.....

Yound Old man: ...to jump into the river whilst he can't
 swim.....

Old man of Kariya:He is a foolhardy.

Reckoning man: If you couldn't live in any way.....

Boss Why didn't you do a big deed?

Old man of hole: He looks very wicked.

Saijiroh I'm very wicked as you say, but please be
 merciful.

Tomizoh That's all right. Retire to your corner.

Saijiroh Yes, sir.

 Retires to the rear.

Tomizoh Denji and Kusuke of Mikawacho, Kanda,
 come here.

Denji
Kusuke Yes, sir.

The two step forward, they
are attired as in the First
act.

Denji Oh, Tomizoh, what an unexpected for meeting!

Kusuke Please be merciful for we're acquaintances.

Third man Hey, hold back, you are outrageous to
 speak in that tone to him who occupy an
 office here.

Denji
Kusuke Yes, sir.

Tomizoh What have you done to be sent here?

Denji We drank wine and borrowed money forcibly,
 first in uptown, in Yotsuya and Akasaka,
 then in Asakusa and Kanda, and ravaged so
 much.

Kusuke I asked to borrow only half a gallon of
 Sake at a tavern outside of the Sujikai
 Bridge, but as the Master refused it I
 uncorked a barrel.

Denji And borrowed forcibly at last.

Kusuke And finally handed to the police.

Tomizoh What petty rascals you are to borrow forcibly
 a little quantity of sake!

Reckoning man: You go all through the year in a
 sheet of happi-coat and ravage round the
 taverns, you wretched tramp of Mikawacho.

Second man: You're very fool to come here for that sort of crime.

Boss Though it was a little quantity of sake, it is the same as robbery to borrow forcibly.

Honban You will be tattooed and get a hundred whip.

Denji Oh, have we to get a tattoo and a hundred whip like a thief?

Kusuke I would have done a bigger evil if I had known of that.

Tomizoh When you come again, you commit a bigger crime and make a present of fifty or one hundred to us.

Denji I'm sorry I didn't commit.....

Kusuke a bigger crime.

Tomizoh Go to your corner.

Denji
Kusuke Yes, sir.

They retire in the rear.

Tomizoh The last is a tramp of Terajime, Chohtaro, step forward.

Chohtaro Here, sir.

Advance forward and sees
Tomizoh.

Chohtaro It is so long since I had seen you last.

Tomizoh Oh, so you're the pickpocket I met once in Sugamo.

Chohtaro Yes, sir, I was ardently advised by you then to quit the job, but it being in my nature to steal, I couldn't become honest and here I am.

Third man I couldn't discern you for the darkness last evening, but you're a fine young fellow.

Fourth man Let's treat him kindly, pals.

Young Old man: You will live comfortably, young man.

Chohtaro Thank you, sirs.

Old man of Taira: What is your speciality?

Chohtaro Thank you, sir when I was at home, I used to massage my father's feet, so please let me massage your feet, sirs.

Great Boss Oh, you can do massage, can you? It is very convenient. Massage me this evening.

Chohtaro Thank you, sir.

Old man of hole: He is a wise guy, indeed.

Call There is a present to the barge ward.

Call Oh! The tramp of Shimatsuke, tattooed Tomizoh!

Tomizoh rises.

Tomizoh Thank you, sir.

Call Do you know Tokutaro of Itamiya and his wife Tatsu who reside at Hichirobei's lented house in Motomachi, Hongo?

Tomizoh Yes, I know them.

Call What relations have you to them?

Tomizoh I saved them when they were going to kill themselves.

Call All right. Listen, we'll **call** the articles.

Tomizoh Thank you, sir.

Call A coop of boiled-rice, a suit of Kimono, a belt, two hundred sheet of paper, two hundred cents of money. We'll keep the two hundred cents of money for you.

Tomizoh Thank you, sir.

Articles are handed to him.

Third man That's all the new comers.

Fourth man No, there's left one more.

Tomizoh Oh, yes, there was tramp Kampachi of Nunagaya. Step forward, Kampachi, be quick.

Ganpachi Yes, sir.

Ganpachi march forward.

Tomizoh Oh, you're Ganpachi of Ikuma.

Ganpachi I never expected to be co-prisoner with you here.

Tomizoh What have you committed to be sent here?

Ganpachi I could not remain in Kumagaya for I ravaged there too much, and came to Yedo changing my name to Kanpachi. I did nothing for my living and been driven to poverty, stole and arrested. You and I are old acquaintances, so please treat me kindly, will you?

Tomizoh Well, I have a grudge against you, and I will treat you with kindness.

Great Boss Tomizoh, tell me what's your grudge against that fellow.

Tomizoh My former wife's father borrowed five yen from this guy. Where as this rascal changed the letters of the bond from five to fifty, and pressed urgently the payment of it. I happened to visit my father-in-law and found him in great distress because of this fellow, and so I paid the fifty to save him knowing it was this rascal's forgery. But I hoped ever since to punish this fellow for that.

Great Boss Then you had paid this rascal the money your father-in-law had not.....

Old man of corner: borrowed?

Old man of Keriza: You have good reason to bear a grudge against him.

Ganpachi No, I never changed the letters of the bond.

Old man of Corner: Hey, shut up, you villain. We don't inquire into the case here. If you have any excuse, tell it to the judge in court.

Ganpachi But Tomizoh said.....

Old man of Corner: Hold your tongue!

Chohtaro comes forward.

Chohtaro I have a request to ask the second boss.

Tomizoh What's it, young man?

Chohtaro Last evening when this fellow came in after me he said that they were foolish to put a great boss like him in the same ward with us, and awfully reigned supreme and pushed me aside by his elbow. My ribs ache still now for that.

Ganpachi Don't lie! I never did what you say I did.

Chohtaro I was afraid that I should be scolded if I cried out, so I forbore the pain, but look at these wounds.

He shows his side.

Ganpachi You are a big liar!

Denji No, it's not a lie! We two are new comers too and were with them.....

Kusuke We witnessed this big fellow tormenting the little young man.

Tomizoh Will you two bear witness to the fact?

Two Yes, sir.

Tomizoh You can't deny two witnesses. You should have known the rules of prison, and yet you dared to do that. We can not overlook it and will severely discipline you. Be obedient to what we order. Mr. Reckoning man, please let us use the plank for we have a man to train.

Reckoning man turns to Boss.

Reckoning man Please, Boss, allow us to use the plank for we have a man to train.

Boss rises and goes to Great Boss.

Boss Please, Great Boss, allow us to use the plank for we have a man to train.

Great Boss takes the plank from the shelf and hand it to Boss, who hand it successively to Tomizoh. Tomizoh takes it with a bow and come forward and seizes Ganpachi by the neck.

Ganpachi I 've done nothing to be beaten.

Tomizoh Dear Old man of Corner, how many shall we give him?

Old man of Corner: He'd changed five to fifty, so give him ten.

Tomizoh It's Old man of Corner's order to give you ten beats. I'll train you as an old acquaintance.

Ganpachi I've done nothing to be beaten.

Third man Oh, don't be a coward.

Fourth man You shall be pulled down.

Tomizoh Do so.

Third and Fourth man pull
down Ganpachi, Tomizoh
beat Ganpachi with the
plank.

Tomizoh I'm satisfied a little now.

Ganpachi Don't forget you tormented me.

Reckoning man: Hey, don't you know matters are different
here from a country prison.

Old man of Taira: This is the biggest prison.

Young old man: If you grumble, we'll strip you naked and

Old man of Kariza:make you dance a naked dance.

Ganpachi Oh, I've met with a shocking treatment.

Third man It will be bad for you.....

Fourth mango back to your corner.

Ganpachi retires to the
right.

Tomizoh I have so long been waiting a day I can repay him, and I'm satisfied by beating him. I can die in peace now.

Great Boss There was no one executed recently for obstinence days succeeded one after another. But you will not live long, Tomizoh.

Tomizoh I'm prepared for it, sir.

Old man of Corner: I've heard from a guard a little while ago that it will be tomorrow.

Boss Then we are to.....

Allpart tomorrow, Tomizoh.

Tomizoh Thank you all for your kind treatments for long time.

Great Boss Treasury break was the first ever since the present Shogun assumed his seat. So when you go out to be executed, I wanted to attire you respectably. But the interior of the prison is dull just as the world outside, and I can't do as I wish. I prepared for you a taffeta clothe and Hakata belt, please receive it as my present.

He takes from rear shelf a clothe and belt, hand them to Tomizoh, who takes it bowing down.

Tomizoh You and other old men favoured a worthless fellow like me, gave me an office and let me live at ease and moreover, you gave me a taffeta clothe and Hakata belt. I can face my people from the country proudly in these brand new attire.

He bows down.

Great Boss You are a rare thief, so I wish you to die
a respectable death to be talked fo long
after you are dead.

Tomizoh I'm well prepared for that and I'll not die
like a coward.

Old man of Corner: I say, Tomizoh, I have made a paper
rosary to give you when you go out to the
gallows. Here, suspend it tomorrow on your
bosom. (Gaves the paper rosary to Tomizoh)

Tomizoh Thank you, sir, I'm much indebted to you
for your kind treatment for a long time. I'm
very sorry to part from you.

Third man We're only a petty gambler not like you....

Fourth man And will not be executed. So sooner or
later we'll be released.

Old man of Corner: If you have anything to say to
your family, leave it to us.

Tomizoh They were in Kamegaya, before but I heard
that they were going to start for Yedo.
I wonder where they are now. I wish I can
meet them again before I die.

He wepps.

Great Boss Hurry to tell the guard to serve sake and
some relish. Let's have a farewell party.

He gives money to Boss.

Boss All right, sir.

Ganpachi raises his head.

Ganpachi I'm satisfied now.

Tomizoh Oh, you obtrude again!

He starts to assault him.

Great Boss Oh, leave him alone, we'll punish him later.

Tomizoh I would kill you if we were out in the world.

Call (off scene) The large ward!

Tomizoh Yes.....

Call There are new prisoners to come.....
Ragman Borohachi of Shin-ami, Shiba,.....
Homeless Kurogoh of Shitaya and Money lender
ginbei of Kenabukicho. One, two, three,

Reckoning men: Well, come on in.

Tomizoh and Reckoning men
stand in readiness.

Sound of unlocking the entrance.

Call the three by name.

The three men enter and crouch.

Tomizoh takes the plank and come forward, seizes Borohachi by neck.

Tomizoh Hey, where have you come from?

Borohachi I'm called Borohachi and am a rag-buyer in Shiwami.

Tomizoh This is the first street of Hell, and there is no second street in Hell, for the street ends here. Have you never been in prison before? There are strict ranks in every mat. You must have heard that the west large prison is more horrible than the three cleverest judge. And this is it. You just came in by the prison gate. How much life money have you brought with you?

Borohachi I have brought a bundle.

Tomizoh You wretched fool, you can't be a big robber. This prison is the largest which can hold two or three thousand convicts. One or two bundle is good for sixteen cents in the world outside, but here in this prison it is good for only one or two cents. The things called belt and loin in the world outside are called long one and slender one here. If any co-prisoner hang himself by your slender one, you are to be blamed for it. Moreover, there are twelve bosses in this ward and you can live at ease. But if you ask the great boss or the assistant boss to be allowed to

clean the floor and other things and work hard, you will live in comfort. So you wait till the time comes when your term is up.

Borohachi Please pardon me, for I will bring more next time I come here.

He receives a beat.

Tomizoh Who is the next? Are you convicted?

Kurozoh Yes, sir, I'm a criminal called the tramp Kurozoh of Shitaye. I could bring only three yen in my exigency, so please tolerate me by that.

Tomizoh Bring more next time.

Kurozoh Yes, sir.

Hands the money and retires.

Tomizoh Hey, you are well clothed and looks honest. What have you committed?

Ginbei Well, I'm called Ginbei of Kanafukichoh. I live by silver work, and been sent here for a mistake in silver work.

Tomizoh How much have you brought with you for your life?

Ginbei I've brought ten yen, sir.

He put out the money.

Tomizoh Have brought ten yen bearing that the prison
would be dreadful if you bring a little?

He put the money in front
of Great boss.

Tomizoh He has brought ten yen, sir.

Great Boss If he is an honest fellow, be kind to him.

Tomizoh hit him softly.

Substitute of Boss sleep
up to them.

Substitute of Boss: Now, you come here.

He takes Ginbei to the right.

Borohachi Please let me be with him.

Tomizoh No, you shall not.

Borohachi What! Why?

Tomizoh Even in hell.....

He pushes over Borohachi.

TomizohMoney speaks.

Ganpachi shows his face.

Tomizoh takes punishing
plank and stares at him.

Other men watching them.

Curtain.

Scene II

Sentencing room in prison.

Enter Tatewaki Iside from left, inspector Kurokawa follows him with a sentence paper in his hand, two assist and corner follow him.

Tatewaki stops at right, turns to the lock keeper standing.

Tatewaki The tramp of Simotsuke called tattooed Tomizoh and Tohyuro Fujioka who lives in Seibetsu rented house at Kamimaki-cho, Nihonbashi will be executed today after carried through the street of Yedo, witnessed by Harimanokami Ikedan and Kinokami Waitoh. Call out the two convicts by the certificate of leaving the prison.

Lock Keeper Yes, sir.

Receives certificate of leaving prison, and turns to the back.

Lock Keeper The large ward, there are criminals to be executed.

Caller Here, sir.

Lock Keeper The tattooed tramp Tomizoh of Simotsuke
who is under Harimanokami Ikeda's charge.

Caller Yes, he is here, sir. Tohjuroh Fujioka,
aged thirty seven, resident of Seibei's
lented house at Kamimakicho, Nihonbasi,
who is under Harimanokami Ikeda's charge,
and sent here on the last day of February,
in the fourth year of Ansei. There is no
one called by the same name at the same place.

Sound of unlocking the door
of cell and enters Tomizoh
attired in taffeta clothe
and Heketa belt, white
leggings and sandals,
bound by straw rope, hanging
paper rosary round his neck.

Next to him Tohjuroh enters
clothed in black, white
leggings, putting on straw
sandals and hanging rosary
round his neck.

Both of them are guarded
by two lackeys each.

Inspector Tomizoh.

Tomizoh Yes, sir.

Inspector How old are you?

Tomizoh Thirty three years old, sir.

Inspector Are you a tramp of Inozuka village, Simo-
tsuke, and tattooed?

Tomizoh Yes, sir.

Inspector When were you sent here?

Tomizoh It was on the ninth day of April, in the third year of Ansei.

Inspector Tohjyuroh.

Tohjyuroh Yes, sir.

Inspector How old are you?

Tohjyuroh Thirty seven years old, sir.

Inspector You are a resident of Seibei's rented house in Kamimakiicho?

Tohjyuroh Yes, sir.

Inspector When were you sent here?

Tohjyuroh It was on the last day of February in the fourth year of Ansei, sir.

Inspector Now we'll read your crimes, listen attentively (Unfold the paper) Tomizoh, who is one of you two, had been tattooed once for a theft, but he had erased it. And moreover, having often gone into the Shogun's castle while he served under certain gendai lord, he knew that the treasury was inside of the western drawbridge, and so he induced Tohjyuroh to rob the treasury with him. As a preparation of the theft, he stole in to the door of the treasury several times since April of the year of here, made the key to open the door. Thus on the sixth of May the two got into the treasury at night and robbed two boxes of money each containing two thousand yen. You got out of the castle by the stone wall of western draw-bridge. Out of that four thousand yen, Tomizoh spent one thousand two hundred and sixty five yen by dissipation, spree and other uses.

Tohjiyuroh received two thousand seven hundred and thirty five yen, spent it by buying mountain woods, dissipation and other payments. Thus, intending to become a patronized wood merchant for Shogun, he negotiated with the superintendent of public works and borrowed banners and lanterns showing patronized merchant. He ornamented his front door with these banners and lanterns. Such deeds are very offensive to the government, and they will be executed at Asakusa after they have been carried through the street.

Tomizoh
Tohjiyuroh

Thank you, sir.

Tomizoh

Please excuse me to tell you that I have been most kindly treated by the great Boss Okugoroh Matsusima while I was in the west large prison.

Tohjiyuroh

I too have been treated very kindly by Manemon, a tramp of the provinces, while I was in the east two ward prison.

Tomizoh

I entreat you to be.....

Tohjiyuroh

.....merciful to them.....

Inspector

All right, your request is granted. Now, rise yourselves up.

The two rise and speak
to the cell.

Tomizoh

I ask you, the large ward.

Men

(off scene) Be steady, the biggest bad-man in Japan.

Tomizoh

Please pray for me, pals.

Men

All right.

Tohjiyuroh

Please pray for me, pals.

Men All right.

Tohjyuroh Please pray for me, pals.

Men Mam-myo-hohren-geikyo, Nen-myo-hohren-gekyo.

Exit Tohjyuroh and Tomizoh.

Curtain.

Scene III

Temple of Nichiren in Kodenmachoh.

Pilgrims, who consists of ten men, eight women and several children, are standing all with a fan drum in their hands.

Gidayuh:

' The divine favour of the Holy priest is very sacred. His benevolence is heaped higher than the summit of the Minobu mountain and his blessing is as deep as the sea around the isle of Sedo. Let's drum the fan drum to the sound of lake waves.'

Sound of fan drums become more enlivened.

Woman A It is just forty five years since this temple was erected.

Man A The nave was once an execution ground of a prison.

Woman B The temple was erected for the blotting out of sins.

Man B Devotees are extremely numerous for this temple is a branch of the temple of Minobu.

Woman C So may believers assemble here day and night.

Man C Now, if all are here.....

All ...let's pay homage.

Gideyuh:

' Now, let's go, let's go.

Nam-myo-horen-gekyo, the seven words

prayer. If we pray most ardently,

all our wishes, family happiness and

good luck love and etc, are granted.

And so, when they visit the temple for

thanksgiving, lovers go hand in hand.

The sea shore of Kazusa is Hokke
sect for fifteen miles, Katase and K
Kamakura are half-Hokke, Nichiren was
born in Eoshyu, and the general
assembly of Hokke sect is at Ikegami as
every body knows.

Some remain throughout the night in
Horincuchi temple and pray for good luck.

Those who visit Taishaku temple are by
way of picnic, and noisily and Merrily
go between the rice-field.

Men dance.

Curtain.